

the formula got changed a bit. It is a simple story. The Revenue Committee heard the bill. You know we have been concerned about 816, we have been concerned about the various formula bills. And so our counsel, Don Norden, said, he said to us, he said, "You know, this little airline tax bill which is a \$700,000 annual property tax bill is distributed back to counties on the basis of valuation. That probably is unconstitutional. The Revenue Committee at least ought to clean up the problem." So we did. We simply made a little dinky change which results in a \$9,000 loss apparently in one of Senator Haberman's counties. Of course he will gain \$9,000 because of the other effect of the bill, but we made the little dinky change that we thought would simply conform to what current rulings are. I then asked the Attorney General for an opinion on the question and the Attorney General wrote back, to my surprise, but he said, look, we think in the case of the airline tax evaluation formula is probably okay. But by that time the change had been made and the bill was moving through and so we said, well leave it alone because it is not that big of a deal and it really isn't that big of a deal, you know. We are only talking about \$700,000 and how it is divvied up and, shoot, the net gains and losses to counties are very small. And when you add the other effect of the bill, that is, it is going to make certain that the car line industry pays its fair share of our taxes and that money is then allocated out, there are no real losses to any of our counties. They are all going to be winners when this bill passes. Now this bill has got some other things in it that are important, some things that the Department of Revenue needed in terms of appeal rights at a hearing and so on and so forth.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: It would be wrong for us, and I am not kidding you, it would be wrong for us to delay this bill, and particularly to stub our toe because we think somehow this is the 816 fight in miniature. It is not. I genuinely am persuaded that it is not the 816 fight in miniature. Now, finally, I know where these little seeds of suspicion are sown. They are sown by Bill Peters who is a lobbyist for the railroad industry who has been paid \$17,000 to beat this bill back. I've got the lobby reports right out here. Now if you want to go along with this charade and cost the State of Nebraska a million bucks, \$800,000, that is your prerogative but it would be a real mistake in my opinion. And, Senator Haberman I know, knows better than this.